



## LOUISIANA NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

**PERMIT APPLICATION**Permit # 883 (Assigned by Department)

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Scenic Rivers program is authorized by LRS title 56, Chapter 9 Part II. This law requires permits authorizing activities in or affecting rivers that have been designated by the Louisiana Legislature as Natural and Scenic. Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Information in this application is made a matter of public record through issuance of a public notice. Disclosure of the information requested is voluntary, however, the data requested are necessary in order to communicate with the applicant and to evaluate the permit application. If necessary information is not provided, the permit application cannot be processed nor can a permit be issued.

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Name of Applicant	NiSource/Columbia Gulf Transmission, LLC	Name of Agent (if any)	CH2M HILL
Address	Attn: Brandi Naughton	Address	Attn: Blake Amos
Address	5151 San Felipe, Suite 2500	Address	2112 Eleventh Avenue South, Suite 320
City, State, Zip	Houston, TX 77056	City, State, Zip	Birmingham, AL 35205
Phone	713 386-3761	Phone	225 620-3338

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY**

Brief summary of the description and purpose of the proposed activity (details to be attached as a separate document)
Remediation of an approximately 1,900' section of exposed pipeline along Columbia Gulf's 12-inch-diameter Paradis Lateral natural gas pipeline in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.
Is any portion of the activity complete? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (If yes indicate month and year of completion)

**LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY**

Stream Name	Bayou Des Allemands	Names, Addresses, Phone Numbers of Adjacent Property Owners
Parish	Lafourche	Office of State Lands; PO Box 44124; Baton Rouge, LA 70804
Section	31	
Township	14 South	
Range	20 East	
Latitude/Longitude	29 48'59.22"N; 90 28'38.16"W	

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Must be a separate document. See the attached instruction sheet for completing the assessment.

**CONFIRMATION OF INFORMATION ACCURACY**

Application is hereby made for a Scenic River Use Permit to authorize the activities described herein. I certify that I am familiar with the information contained in this application, and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, such information is true, complete, and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the proposed activities, or I am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.
--

Brandi Naughton  
Signature

9/20/13  
Date



**CH2MHILL**

**CH2M HILL**

2112 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

Suite 320

Birmingham, AL 35205

Tel 205.326.8912

Fax 205.326.8878

September 19, 2013

Mr. Keith Cascio  
Scenic Rivers Program  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
368 Century Tel Drive  
Monroe, LA 71203

**Subject:        Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System Permit Application  
                     NiSource/Columbia Gulf Transmission, LLC  
                     Paradis Lateral Pipeline Exposure  
                     Lafourche Parish, LA**

Dear Mr. Cascio:

On behalf of NiSource/Columbia Gulf Transmission, LLC (Columbia Gulf), CH2M HILL, submits the following information in support of a Scenic Rivers Permit application for the proposed Paradis Lateral Pipeline Exposure Project (Project). The proposed Project is immediately adjacent to Bayou Des Allemands, which is part of the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System. Please find attached a Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System Permit application, a signed agreement letter, permit plats, a photographic exhibit, a public notice, and a check in the amount of \$100.00.

#### **PROJECT LOCATION & DESCRIPTION**

Columbia Gulf proposes remediation of an approximately 1,900-foot section of exposed pipeline along their 12-inch-diameter Paradis Lateral natural gas pipeline in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The pipeline exposure is at pipeline milepost 18.31 near Des Allemands, Louisiana, within Dufrene Ponds adjacent to Bayou Des Allemands. The Project will involve construction of a dredge material and riprap structure atop the exposed portions of pipeline, as shown in the attached plats. Waterbottom sediment will be dredged from within the existing pipeline right-of-way and then placed over the pipeline. A geotextile fabric then will be placed over the dredged sediment, and riprap will be placed over the geotextile fabric. The structure will be designed with a height adequate to ensure visibility to boating traffic. All work will be performed from a work barge. Equipment access to the site will be via the Intracoastal Waterway, through Lake Salvador, through Bayou Des Allemands, into Dufrene Ponds. No work will be performed within the banks of Bayou Des Allemands or on land.

#### **PURPOSE AND NEED**

Remediation of the exposure is required to ensure pipeline integrity and public boating safety, because the exposure is in public open waters.



## **OTHER LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL PERMITS REQUIRED**

A revised Joint Permit Application was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management (OCM), on April 30, 2013. The OCM authorized this Project under permit number P20101173 on July 25, 2013. The USACE authorized this Project under permit number MVN 2010-02461-CM on August 5, 2013. These permits are available upon request.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENT**

On September 19, 2013, CH2M HILL requested a public notice be placed in one (1) issue of the official state journal, The Advocate, and three (3) consecutive issues of the official parish journal, the Daily Comet. Once received, proof of publication will be forwarded to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), Scenic Rivers Program. A copy of the public notice is enclosed.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Existing Land Use. The Project area is within open water situated primarily within a coastal marsh landscape. Moderate residential development is within the vicinity of the Project area. Land use at and adjacent to the area is primarily recreational boating and fishing. The proposed Project will not result in any changes to or impacts on the current land use in the area.

Historical and Archeological Sites. Columbia Gulf has contacted the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism via the Joint Permit Application process for construction projects in Louisiana's Coastal Zone, as administered by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. The SHPO proffered no comment during the interagency review period, thereby indicating their approval of the proposed Project.

Economic Impact of the Project. The proposed Project will not cause any long-term economic changes for the surrounding communities. No commercial, industrial, or residential properties will be affected by the proposed Project. For this reason and because of the limited scope of the Project, significant economic impacts from the Project are not likely.

Wilderness/Rural Quality. A portion of Bayou Des Allemands will be used for access from Lake Salvador into Dufrene Ponds; however, no work will occur within the bayou. Access through the bayou will be temporary, with no impacts on vegetation or waterbottoms occurring within the bayou. The Project area within Dufrene Ponds will be adjacent and directly connected to the bayou via surface water. Riprap will be required as part of the exposure remediation. The riprap will be placed permanently within the Project area to a height above the water surface adequate to ensure visibility to boating

traffic. The addition of the riprap to Dufrene Ponds will be visible from Bayou Des Allemands; however, the riprap will be placed adjacent to an existing manmade levee that includes a road and residential structures. With the exception of the riprap, no additional structures are proposed for the Project. Therefore, the proposed Project is not likely to significantly impact the wilderness and rural quality along Bayou Des Allemands.

Scenic Aesthetic Value. For the same reasons described for Wilderness/Rural Quality, the proposed Project is not likely to significantly impact the scenic aesthetic value along Bayou Des Allemands.

Recreational Use/Opportunities. During construction, the Project area in Dufrene Ponds will be unavailable for recreational use, but access to Bayou Des Allemands will not be affected. Therefore, the proposed Project is not likely to impact recreational uses or opportunities along Bayou Des Allemands.

Ecological Systems Present. The Project area is within open water situated primarily within a coastal marsh landscape. The addition of the riprap may provide additional habitat and feeding and perching opportunities within Dufrene Ponds for various wildlife. Due to the small scale of the proposed extent of the riprap relative to the overall coastal marsh landscape, however, the proposed Project is not likely to significantly impact the ecological systems present along Bayou Des Allemands.

Fish and Wildlife in the Area. Common wildlife that may be present in the Project area include various waterfowl (e.g., mallards, wood ducks, and American coots) and wading birds (e.g., egrets, spoonbills, and herons). Other potential common wildlife include American alligators, raptors, and various songbirds. Common fishes that may be present in the Project area include redfish, speckled trout, silversides, and croakers.

The placement of the relatively small amount of riprap likely will not adversely affect fish and wildlife in the area and may even create limited habitat for some species. However, the presence of equipment during access and construction may temporarily displace wildlife. Increased turbidity may result during dredging in the Project area within Dufrene Ponds, which may carry over into the bayou. Best Management Practices will be utilized to the maximum extent practicable to minimize increases in turbidity during construction. Turbidity may affect some aquatic species temporarily, primarily by causing them to leave the immediate area of construction. However, the majority of susceptible species that may be present within Dufrene Ponds and Bayou Des Allemands are highly mobile and able to disperse easily. These species will return as soon as construction is completed. Therefore, the proposed Project is not likely to significantly impact fish and wildlife associated with Bayou Des Allemands.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate Species of Louisiana (updated August 2012), eight species are listed as threatened or endangered in Lafourche Parish. These species include the West-Indian manatee, piping plover, gulf sturgeon, green sea turtle, hawksbill sea turtle, Kemp's ridley sea turtle,



leatherback sea turtle, and loggerhead sea turtle. Columbia Gulf has contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via the Joint Permit Application process for construction projects in Louisiana's Coastal Zone, as administered by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proffered no comment during the interagency review period, suggesting they have no concerns that any of these species are likely to be affected by the Project.

Botanical Elements. Given the Project's location in open water, no vegetation will be impacted by the proposed Project, either for access or during construction.

Geological Features. The Project area is not an area known to contain sensitive paleontological resources, and no paleontological studies have been conducted. There are expected to be no impacts on geology or topography as a result of the proposed Project. There are no unique geologic features or geologic hazards in the Project area.

Hydrological Features. No alterations to the hydrological features (channelization or channel realignment) of Bayou Des Allemands will result from the proposed Project.

Water Quality/Quantity. No impacts on water quality/quantity will occur within Bayou Des Allemands during access. Minor temporary impacts may occur to the bayou during construction, however. Increased turbidity may result during dredging in the Project area within Dufrene Ponds, which may carry over into the bayou. Best Management Practices will be utilized to the maximum extent practicable to minimize increases in turbidity during construction. Therefore, significant adverse impacts on the water quality within Bayou Des Allemands are not anticipated during the proposed Project. No water will be withdrawn, diverted, or imported during the Project, so available water quantity in Bayou Des Allemands will not be increased or decreased as a result of the Project.

## **SCENIC RIVERS ACT COMPLIANCE**

Columbia Gulf has not been cited for a violation of the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act.

## **MINIMIZATON EFFORTS**

Columbia Gulf has designed the proposed Project to minimize environmental impacts. Equipment will access the area at a time when water levels are high enough to ensure no unnecessary impacts on waterbottoms will occur. Dredging of waterbottoms will be limited only to that absolutely necessary to complete the proposed Project.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Several alternatives were considered to remediate this pipeline exposure: pipeline lowering, pipeline replacement via horizontal directional drill, and the No-Build Alternative. The No-Build Alternative was rejected, because it does not address the Project's purpose and need.

Mr. Keith Cascio  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
September 19, 2013  
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Columbia Gulf originally considered lowering this portion of pipeline to remediate the problem. However, the most easterly exposure is located next to the box sag (pipe under Bayou Des Allemands). To lower the east side of the exposed section without applying additional stress and strain on the pipeline, Columbia Gulf would have to excavate across Bayou Des Allemands, through the east side bank and continue an additional 500 feet (approximate) on the east side of the east bank. This option would affect navigation on Bayou Des Allemands (possibly shutting down boat traffic) and would require a section of the east bank levee to be excavated to a depth sufficient to lower the exposed pipeline to the 5-foot depth. Vehicular traffic along the road on the east side of the east bank would be affected as well. The cost for this option is estimated at approximately \$1.0 million. Also, the 12-inch Paradis Lateral pipeline delivers natural gas to customers of Entergy and Atmos. The pipeline would be shut-in and isolated at a pressure of approximately 100 pounds per square inch to allow for safe lowering, which would affect Entergy and Atmos customers.

Columbia Gulf also looked at performing a horizontal directional drill to replace the exposed section, as well as the section under Bayou Des Allemands. This option is not feasible at an estimated cost of approximately \$3.0 million. It has become clear to Columbia Gulf that lowering or replacing this portion of pipeline is not a viable permanent solution. Columbia Gulf has decided, therefore, to implement the proposed Project, which involves covering the exposed pipeline with dredge material and riprap.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the described scope of work and the referenced environmental considerations, it is the position of Columbia Gulf and CH2M HILL that the proposed Project will result in no permanent adverse impacts on Bayou Des Allemands. We appreciate your assistance in this Project, and if you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 225-620-3338 or [blake.amos@ch2m.com](mailto:blake.amos@ch2m.com).

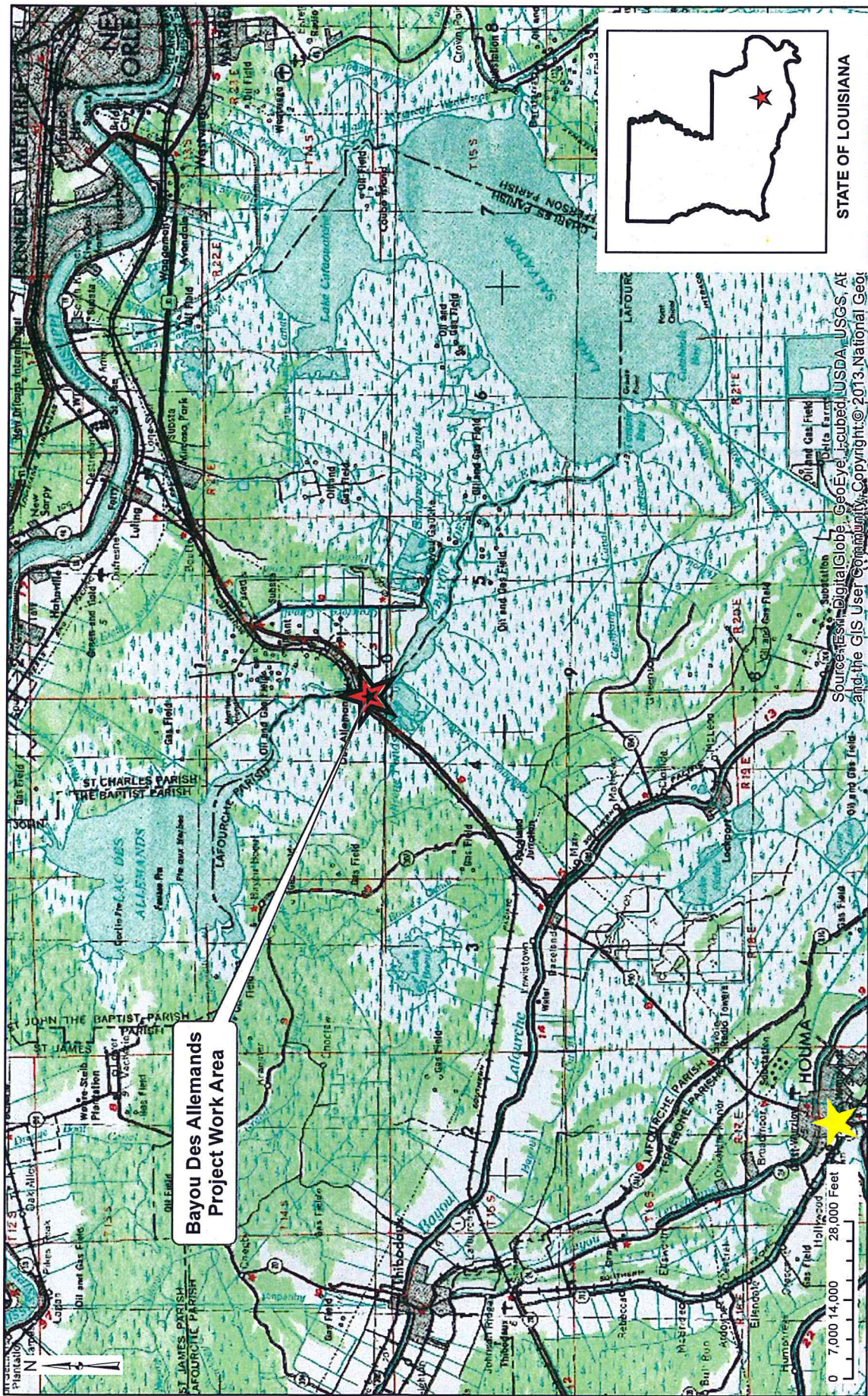
Sincerely,



Blake Amos  
CH2M HILL

Enclosures





DRAWN BY: JRM  
 CHECKED BY: BA  
 APPROVED BY: BA  
 PROJECT NO.:

**VICINITY MAP**  
 Paradis Lateral Pipeline Exposure  
 Des Allemands,  
 Lafourche Parish, Louisiana

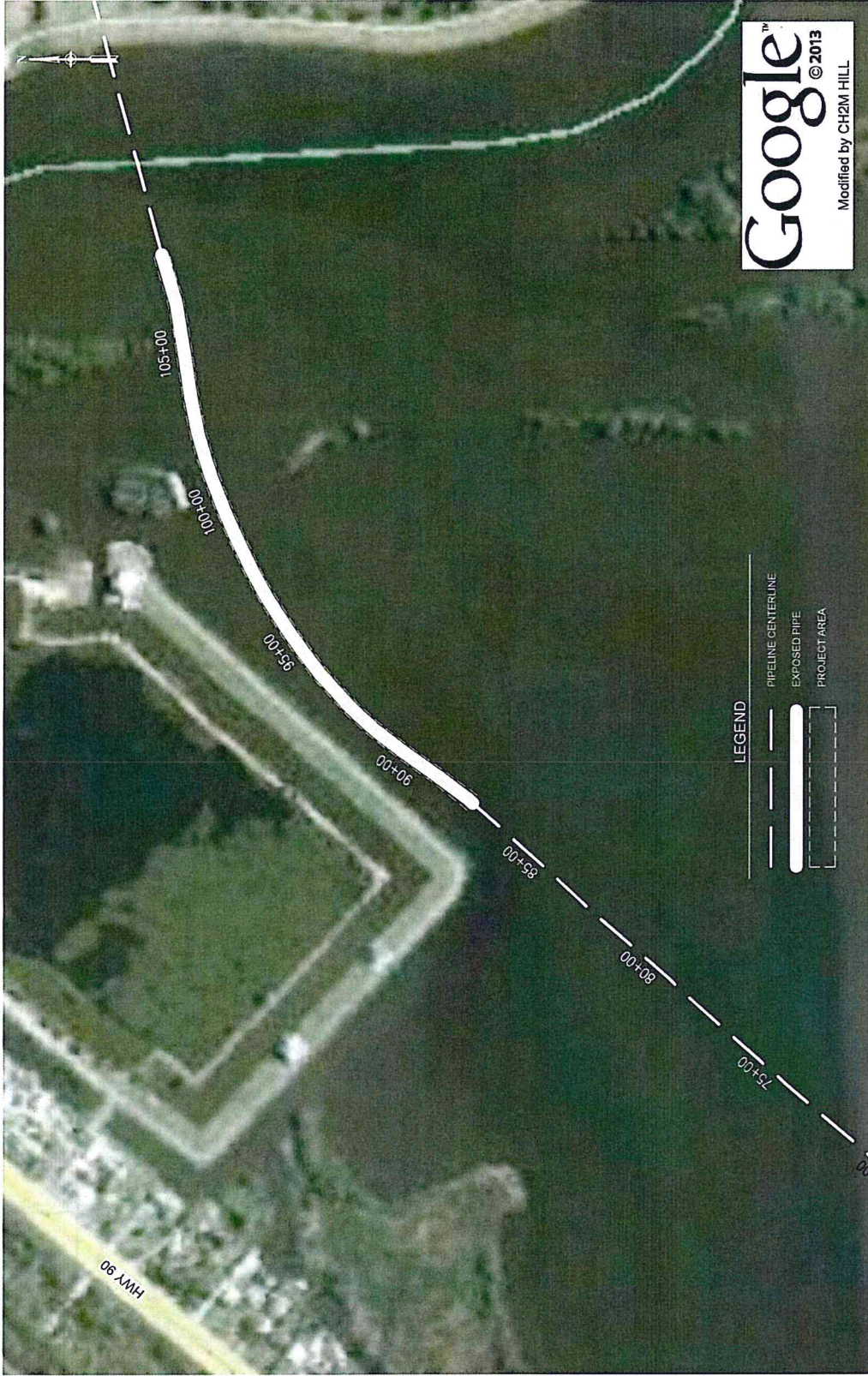
Columbia Gulf Transmission  
 Charleston, WV

**Columbia Gulf Transmission**  
 A NISource Company

**CH2MHILL®**

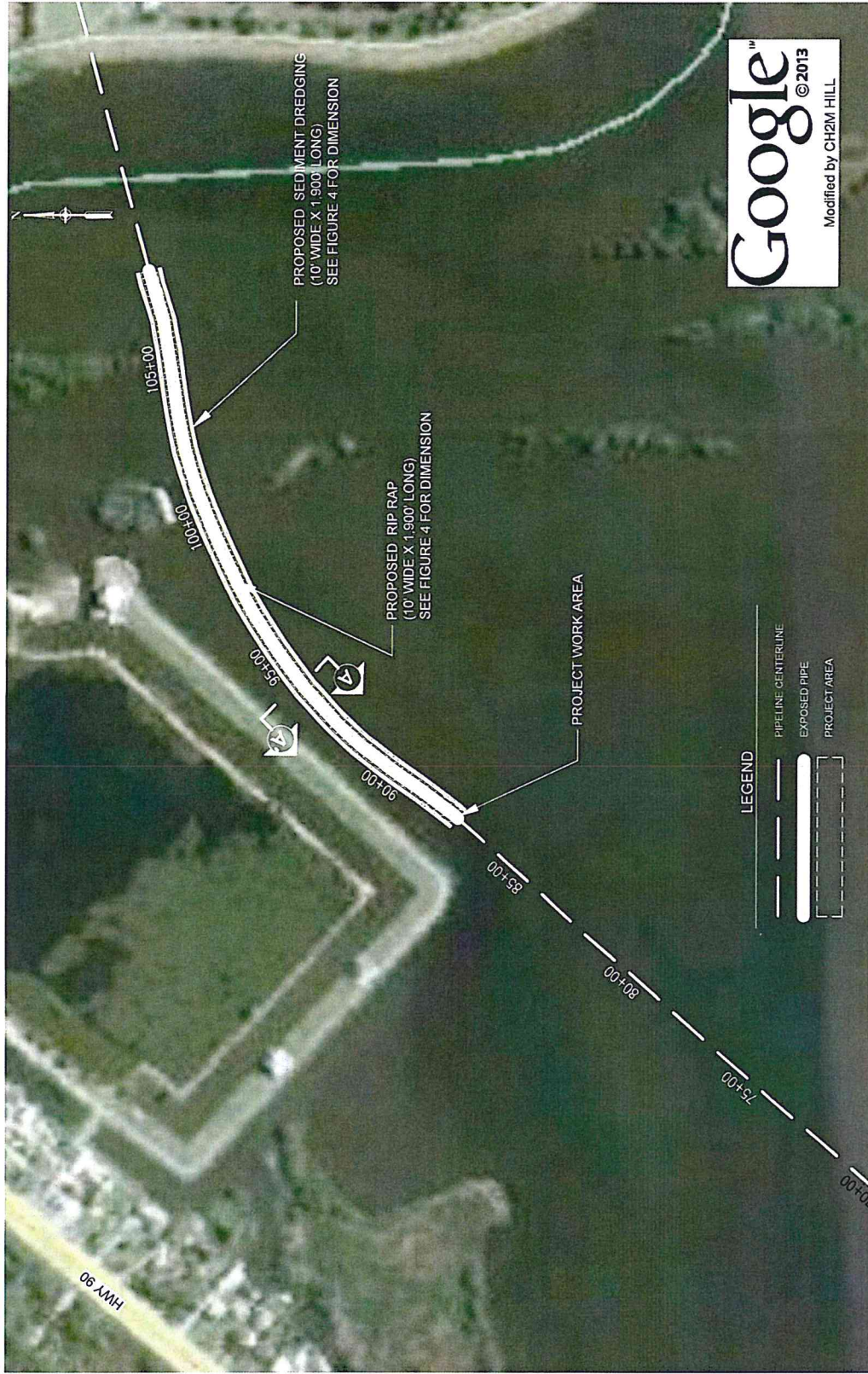
FIGURE NO. 1





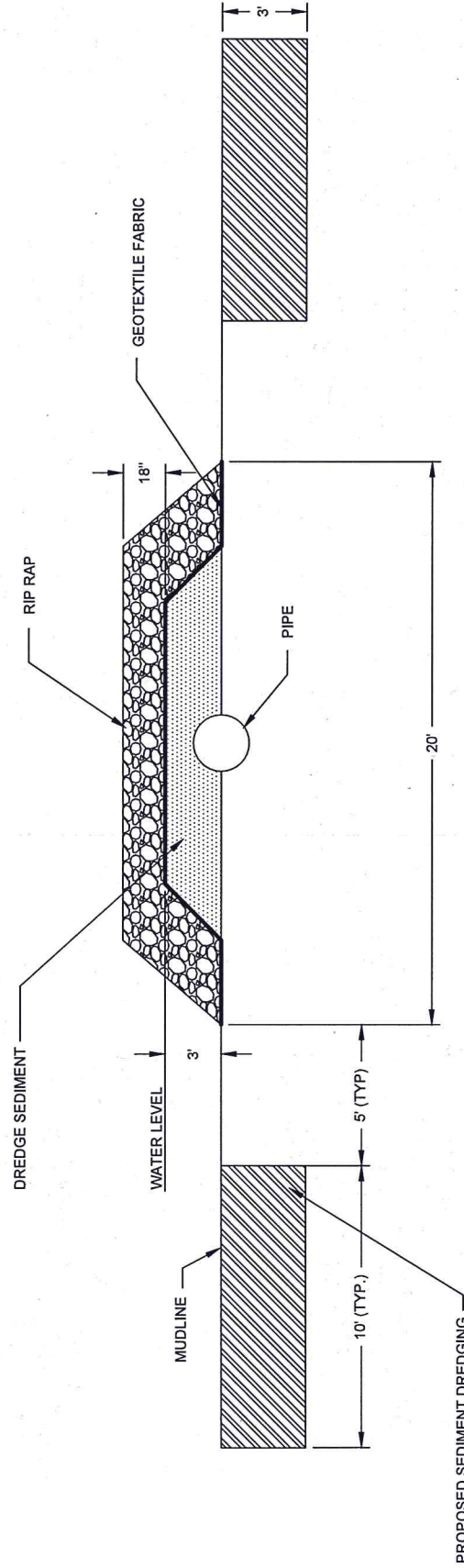
<b>CH2MHILL.</b>	 A NISource Company	Columbia Gulf Transmission Charleston, WV	<b>EXISTING SITE PLAN</b>  Paradis Lateral Pipeline Exposure Des Allemands, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana	DRAWN BY: JRM CHECKED BY: BA APPROVED BY: BA PROJECT NO.:	FIGURE NO. 2





<b>CH2MHILL</b>	 A NISource Company	Columbia Gulf Transmission Charleston, WV	<b>PROPOSED SITE PLAN</b>  Paradis Lateral Pipeline Exposure Des Allemands, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana	DRAWN BY: JRM CHECKED BY: BA APPROVED BY: BA PROJECT NO.:  FIGURE NO. 3
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**CROSS SECTION A-A'**  
SCALE: 1" = 6'

NOTES:  
WATER LEVEL SHOWN AS OBSERVED ON 01/20/2011, ELEVATION OF WATER LEVEL = 0.31'  
MEAN HIGH WATER = 0.93'  
MEAN LOW WATER = 0.54'

<p><b>CH2MHILL.</b></p>	<p><b>Columbia Gulf Transmission™</b> A NISource Company</p>	<p>Columbia Gulf Transmission Charleston, WV</p>	<p><b>CROSS SECTION A-A'</b> Paradis Lateral Pipeline Exposure Des Allemands, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana</p>	<p>DRAWN BY: JRM CHECKED BY: BA APPROVED BY: BA PROJECT NO.: FIGURE NO. 4</p>
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**March 2013 Photographic Exhibit**













## State of Louisiana

BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

ROBERT J. BARHAM  
SECRETARY

Dear Scenic River Permit Applicant:

Please review and concur on the following statement regarding the issuance of permits by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This agreement must be signed and returned before a Scenic River Permit can be issued.

"I have been advised and do understand that by applying for and accepting a Scenic Rivers permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, I am being allowed to engage in an activity which would otherwise be prohibited by law or for which a permit is required. I understand that the permit is not a license and confers no property right upon me. I specifically agree to abide by all State and Federal fish and wildlife laws and regulations, and all State and Federal laws and regulations which relate to this permit or the permitted activity, and by all other terms and conditions of this permit. I understand that the permit for which I am applying may be suspended, annulled, withdrawn or revoked and that I may be assessed civil penalties, all in accordance with the provision of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, and that I may be denied future permits as a consequence of my failure to fully and completely comply with the terms and conditions of the permit, as well as other laws and regulations pertinent thereto. If served with or notified of a cease and desist order signed by the Scenic Rivers Administrator, I agree to immediately and without delay cease all activities and operations which relate to the permitted activity or which are impacting the Scenic River, until such time as the matter can be resolved in an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act. I understand and agree that any permit issued to me by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is in the nature of a privilege which is being voluntarily extended to me by the Department and the failure on my part to cooperate with the Department can result in the loss of the privilege conferred and the denial of future requests for permits. By accepting this permit, I evidence my agreement to be bound by all conditions and stipulations set forth herein."

Brandi Naughton

Authorized Signature

09/20/13

Date

REV. 12/7/98